

logical and suggestive sense, would have been a well rewarded placebo.

E. A. V.

Diseases of the Heart and Aorta. By A. D. Hirschfelder, M. D., Associate in Medicine Johns Hopkins University. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia. Price \$6.00.

It is particularly gratifying to receive another edition of this important book. The first edition became so well known and was found so useful by practitioners, students, and laboratory workers that it is hardly necessary to describe the second edition more than to say that it shows evidences of having been thoroughly gone over and amplified in accordance with the latest additions to this field of knowledge. For example, there is a concise but complete and extremely lucid description of electrocardiography, including the underlying physics, the physiology and the applications; the modern more exact indications for digitalis medication; the use of oxygen, carbon dioxide, rarefied air, etc. Few books on special subjects enter fields where there is more new but scattered knowledge which needs to be brought together, and still fewer books do this so clearly and concisely and with so much authority. Bibliographies are given. Illustrations are plentiful and mostly original. Throughout the volume shows evidences of an enormous amount of painstaking work, and it forms one of the most valuable volumes on a reference shelf.

E. S. K.

Solidified Carbon-Dioxide. By Ralph Bernstein, M. D. Published by Betz, Hammond, Ind., 1912.

In this little book Dr. Bernstein has presented the subject of the utilization of carbon-dioxide snow in dermatological conditions in an interesting and comprehensive form. The author is to be congratulated on the admirable results he has obtained by the use of the remedy. The résumé of the factors concerned in the utilization of the carbon-dioxide are comprehensively explained and the description of the method of preparation is concise and complete. Dr. Bernstein has obtained remarkable results in the treatment of epitheliomata but I believe a more safe and rapid measure could be found in the use of the high-frequency spark.

The end results in the treatment of angiomas are satisfactory, but in most instances the rapidity of the cure could be enhanced and the inconvenience to the patient minimized by prolonging each application of the snow.

The temporary freezing produced by carbon-dioxide has little, if any, bactericidal action and, therefore, would theoretically be of little value in the treatment of carbuncles, which Dr. Bernstein advocates. The freezing lowers the resistance of the tissues and in the presence of bacteria offers an admirable field for infection. In the treatment of this class of cases it would seem that the Bier hyperemic treatment would yield better results. The satisfactory results produced by the use of carbon-dioxide in the treatment of keloid, leucoplakia, lupus erythematosus, nevus lipomatodes, lupus vulgaris and xanthoma tuberosum would warrant us in considering this the elective procedure in these conditions. In the treatment of verruca vulgaris more rapid and equally satisfactory results can be obtained by the use of high-frequency or electrolysis.

Dorland's American Illustrated Medical Dictionary.

A new and complete dictionary of terms used in Medicine, Surgery, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Chemistry, Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, Biology, and kindred branches; with new and elaborate tables. Sixth Revised Edition. Ed-

ited by W. A. Newman Dorland, M. D. Large octavo of 936 pages, with 323 illustrations, 119 in colors. Containing over 7,000 more terms than the previous edition. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1911. Flexible leather, \$4.50 net; thumb indexed, \$5.00 net.

Dorland's American Illustrated Medical Dictionary needs no introduction to the American profession. It is neat, well illustrated, concise in its definitions, and contains all the terms one is likely to meet in a life-time. The fact that over seven thousand new terms have been added is assurance that it is keeping abreast of the times.

Handbook of Diseases of the Rectum. By Louis J. Hirschman, M. D. Second edition, 338 pages. Royal octavo, 172 illustrations, including four colored plates. Price \$4.00.

This is the second edition of Hirschman's work, the first having appeared four years ago. It is a work written for the general practitioner who so often is unfamiliar with the special methods of examination and treatment of rectal conditions, and who frequently treats patients of this type without much satisfaction to them or to himself. Symptoms, methods of examination and office treatment are especially considered. The chapter on constipation with its excellent radiographic illustrations is clearly written and should be helpful to the average practitioner. The author advocates the use of albolene, and curiously enough, although there is added a chapter on stool analysis based on the work of Schmidt and Strassburger, no mention is made of regulin (agar agar and cascara) introduced by Ad. Schmidt, nor of oil enemas introduced by Kussmaul and Fleiner and so frequently used by the gastro-entologist.

R. B.

Sexual Impotence. By Victor G. Vecki, M. D., Consulting Genito-Urinary Surgeon to the Mount Zion Hospital, San Francisco. Fourth edition, enlarged. 12mo of 394 pages. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1912. Cloth, \$2.25 net.

No subject in the whole realm of medical science requires for its authoritative discussion such a wide personal experience as sexual impotence. The correct interpretation of an underlying organic or functional lesion of the sexual sphere is only possible on the basis of a thorough knowledge of the border-line conditions (neurological, urological, etc.). Considering, furthermore, the many divergent opinions regarding the efficacy of the various therapeutic measures advocated for the relief of sexual impotence, a somewhat rational treatment seems to be feasible only at the hands of an experienced and well-trained observer, like the author of this admirable book. Refreshing is the open, candid and fearless manner in which he deals with his delicate subject, the mere mention of which is more or less abhorred in a country still saturated with insular prudishness and bigotry. Characteristic in this respect is the introductory sentence: "No one denies that the sexual function is of very great consequence to the individual as well as to society in general, although one does not care to make this a subject of conversation."

Vecki's book does not represent a compilation of the work and views of others, it gives, on the contrary, an independent view of the question of sexual impotence from his own standpoint, which, in many instances, is entirely original. The great value of the book, in other words, lies in the fact, that it contains the author's personal observations and views on this intricate subject, which he offers in his own inimitable and tem-